

4 Intellectuals' Trial Put Off; Moscow Is Silent on Reason

CPYRGHT

By Anatole Shub
Washington Post Foreign Service
MOSCOW, Dec. 11—The

had previous proposed dates)
it had been accepted.

or all the defendants linked to
Phoenix, the "white book" or
both.

trial of four rebellious young
intellectuals, which was ex-
pected to open here today, has
been postponed in an atmos-
phere of considerable mystery.

Moscow City Court officials
said they had no knowledge of
the case, and the Soviet press
remains silent on it. Friends
of the defendants, who gath-
ered at the court this morn-
ing, checked further with au-
thorities and defense attor-
neys and got two versions:
The case might be called "at
a moment's notice"; it had
been postponed "for at least a
week."

Others speculated that the
delay might have been due to
petitions urging an open trial
with full publicity. Two such
letters, one with 44 and the
other with more than 100 sig-
natories, have been sent to the
court. The signatories are said
to include the granddaughter
of former Soviet Foreign Min-
ister Maxim Litvinov and a
number of Moscow University
professors.

Still others thought the delay
due to the fact that the presi-
dent of the court was ill and
his chief deputy was out of
Moscow. The authorities may
therefore be waiting only until
one or the other is ready to
serve.

According to one informant
with access to security offi-
cials, the defendants are to be
linked with the NTS (National
Union of Labor) a rightwing
Russian emigre organization
operating mainly in West Ger-
many. The NTS has frequently
been charged with support
from the U.S. Central Intelli-
gence Agency. Links with for-
eign agencies, however indi-
rect, would appreciably reduce
sympathy for the defendants
and would make more diffi-
cult psychologically the cur-
rent efforts of more renowned
liberal Soviet writers to obtain
publication of their works here
or abroad.

The four defendants, impris-
oned since last January, are

Early Trial Expected

✓ Yuri Galanskov, 27; Alexander
✓ Ginsburg, 30; Alexei Dobrovol-
sky, 29, and Vera Lashova, 27.
They are charged with "anti-
Soviet propaganda," reported-
ly for having distributed an un-
derground literary magazine,
Phoenix-66, and for having
compiled and sent abroad a rec-
ord of last year's trial of writ-
ers Andrei Sinyavsky and Yuli
Daniel. (For having their criti-
cal writings published abroad
under pen names, Sinyavsky
and Daniel were condemned
to seven and five years impris-
onment respectively.)

All Confused

Even those closest to the de-
fendants appeared confused as
to why the trial had not begun
today. Some thought there
had been a misunderstanding
between defense attorneys and
court officials, with the de-
fense having assumed wrongly
that because the Monday
date had not been rejected (as

In any case, a long delay is
considered unlikely. The pre-
trial investigation was com-
pleted two months ago, and
foreign radio stations have
been talking about the case
for more than a week.

Still unclear is the precise
nature of the charges against
each defendant. Galanskov
was the editor of Phoenix-66
and Dobrovolsky was a contri-
butor. Ginsburg was known to
have compiled the Sinyavsky-
Daniel "white book" and to
have sent a copy to Soviet
President Podgorny. Miss
Lashova was apparently only a
typist. But there is little cer-
tainty as to whether the
charges are to be separated,

STATINTL